



SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007  
SEDA-COG  
LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA  
12:30 P.M.

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT**

Barry Ashenfelder, Montour County  
John Fernsler, Union County  
Mike Hawbaker, Centre County  
Bud Henry, Columbia County  
Tom Herman, Montour County  
Dave Hoopengardner, Northumberland County  
Don Kramer, Clinton County  
Mike Redin, Centre County  
Dennis Reitz, Northumberland County  
Dennis Shaffer, Union County  
Jerry Walls, Lycoming County  
Bud Webb, Clinton County

**PRESERVING  
RAIL FREIGHT  
SERVICE**

serving the counties of

Centre  
Clinton  
Columbia  
Lycoming  
Mifflin  
Montour  
Northumberland  
Union

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Allen Bubb, NRHS  
Steve Kusheloff, SEDA-COG  
Richard Robey, Railroad Operating Companies  
Julia Sanders, Lewisburg & Buffalo Creek Railroad  
Gary Shields, Railroad Operating Companies  
Pete Simcox, Railroad Operating Companies

**STAFF PRESENT**

Denise Pyers  
Jamie Shrawder  
Jeff Stover

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Walls called the meeting to order at 12:29 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Walls led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the June 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority**

*Mr. Henry made a motion to approve the June 13, 2007 meeting minutes of the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority; Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion; motion carried.*

**SEDA-COG JOINT  
RAIL AUTHORITY**  
  
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### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Ashenfelder presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2007.

***Mr. Kramer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2007; Mr. Herman seconded the motion; motion carried.***

### **John Fernsler Resignation**

Mr. Walls reported that Mr. John Fernsler is resigning from the board effective July 31, 2007. Mr. Fernsler explained the reason for his resignation.

***Mr. Redin made a motion to thank Mr. Fernsler for his service on the board; Mr. Reitz seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.***

Mr. Reitz reported that Mr. Bill Clark is having some health problems, and Mr. Walls asked staff to send an appropriate card.

### **Operating Agreement Committee Report**

Mr. Stover reported he has been working with Mr. Shields on the amendment to the traffic rights agreement. Mr. Shields is talking with NS to clarify issues on cars over 286,000# and the term of the amendment.

### **Capital Budget Committee Report**

Mr. Shaffer stated that the committee is going with Mr. Jannotti's recommendation that the JRA not fund the additional ties on the JVRR. Mr. Stover will respond to Mr. Shields to convey the board decision. The operator is aware of the decision. There was a consensus to follow the recommendation of the Capital Budget Committee.

Mr. Stover referred to the spreadsheets from Mr. Jannotti included in the packet. Mr. Jannotti states that NBER should provide the rail for Shuey's Curve because this is a maintenance item. Mr. Shields replies that the NBER will provide and install the rail. The Burnham project is a three party project, with the JRA capital, JVRR maintenance, and Standard Steel. Standard Steel is responsible for the cost of the tracks they own on JRA property. Mr. Shields asked that one operator employee be invited to the Capital Budget Committee meeting in order to discuss projects prior to the full board meeting. There was consensus to have Mr. Stover complete negotiations with the operator.

Mr. Walls stated he will review the committee assignments and attendance records and appoint a replacement for Mr. Fernsler to this committee. Mr. Ashenfelder volunteered to serve on this committee until the end of 2007. Mr. Walls appointed Mr. Ashenfelder to the Capital Budget Committee for the remainder of 2007.

### **Legal Issues**

Mr. Stover stated the MCIDC West Park Track should be deeded over to the JRA soon.

### **Events Calendar/Project Map/Staff Report**

Mr. Stover presented the events calendar for July and August, the project map, and the staff report. The board agreed that having the Rail Freight Summit is a good idea. The board discussed who would be invited and the location for the Summit. Staff will work out details and bring it back at the August meeting. The date will most likely be a Thursday or Friday in mid-November.

The board also agreed the JRA should start doing the newsletter again. The board discussed the proper distribution for the newsletter. Mr. Redin stressed we should try to reach the people who are not aware of our services and what we do for the communities.

Mr. Stover referred to the handout showing the drawing of the Brock Estate Bridge. Mr. Walls suggested Mr. Stover work out a date with Mr. Barlow for the dinner. Mr. Stover also explained the capital budget handout.

### **Operator's Status Report**

Mr. Robey distributed the traffic data and financials for the five (5) Authority railroads.

Mr. Shields presented the operations, M/W, and marketing reports.

### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Lewistown Shed**

Mr. Redin reported this issue was tabled until the committee receives further information.

#### **Bids for Siding on LVRR Office Building**

Mr. Stover referred to the bid opening form distributed at the meeting. Smitty's Seamless Gutters was the low bid at \$15,900.00.

*Mr. Herman made a motion to award the siding of the LVRR office building to Smitty's Seamless Gutters for \$15,900.00; Mr. Henry seconded the motion; motion carried.*

#### **Old Elmira Branch**

Mr. Redin reviewed the situation in Old Lycoming Township. The township is requesting to secure more of the railroad right-of-way. The PMC is in support of the request and the process continues to move forward. The PMC is asking for an appraisal since this property has commercial value.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Bids for Ballast Stone on JVRR**

Mr. Stover reported the ballast is part of the 2007 M/W program. 6,750 tons is being delivered by truck and loaded into rail cars. This is roughly \$63,000.00 in ballast being provided by the Authority.

*Mr. Ashenfelder made a motion to award the bid for ballast to Eastern Industries, pending approval from the track maintenance supervisor and track inspector; Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion; motion carried. Mr. Hawbaker abstained from the motion.*

#### **Bids for White Deer and Reading Bridge**

Mr. Stover stated the Union County Conservation District prepared the bid specs for this project. The Authority would put the project out for bid based on these specifications. Staff also has a form from DEP that was completed by the Conservation District that needs to be signed by the land owner. The pier only needs to be removed to the bottom of the stream so the cost may be reduced. Mr. Scott Brouse, President of "the club" stated he has been working with Mr. Stover to ensure the process goes well for everyone, and to keep the option open for a new pier in the future.

Mr. Al Bubb stated the club would like the debris used on the SEDA-COG section of the stream. Mr. Stover responded that DEP plans to use the debris for streamside stabilization, and he would need to speak with John Conrad about this, as it might change the cost if the debris needs moved. Mr. Bubb stated the club would like the value of the debris if it is not used for SEDA-COG section. He asked what is going to happen to the span that needs removed. The span will remain on site. He also suggested that the rail be dismantled, not cut, so it can be used again.

***Mr. Hawbaker made a motion to authorize staff to prepare the remaining bid documents with bids to be received for action at the August meeting; Mr. Reitz seconded the motion; motion carried.***

## NEW BUSINESS

### Public Forum

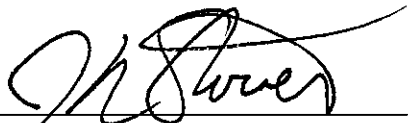
Mr. Reitz referred to the article concerning legislation distributed at the meeting. Mr. Stover will send the legislation and related material to the board members. The board discussed whether or not to voice support for this bill. Mr. Walls suggested getting the perspective of Attorney Keith O'Brien, specifically to find out ramifications to the JRA as a short line. Mr. Redin stated he would not like to commit Authority money to this issue. Mr. Hawbaker reported this issue could be wrapped up by the beginning of August. He will forward the information received from Norfolk Southern to Mr. Stover for distribution to the board.

***Mr. Herman made a motion to allow Mr. Stover to get legislation and provide an analysis and if necessary, get the opinion of Attorney Keith O'Brien; Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion; Mr. Ashenfelder, Mr. Redin, and Mr. Fernsler voted against the motion; motion carried.***

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Walls adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey K. Stover, Executive Director

I hereby certify these minutes were approved by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Board of Directors on August 8, 2007.



Secretary/Assistant Secretary